National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS)

Data Entry Tool Compatibility and Installation

To install the NFIRS software:

Go to WWW.NFIRS.FEMA.GOV
Click on User Section in the navigation bar.
Click on User Home in the blue box (upper left corner) to get to the User Login Page.
Log in with your credentials.
Agree to the Federal System warning
Once the new page loads in the blue box (upper left corner) click on Download Software.
Once the new page loads click on the NFIRS 5.0 version 5.9.4 executable link. (Single File 20 MB)
Once the new page loads Right Click on the Download Now link and choose Save Target As or Save Link As.
Save the executable to your desktop.
Once the download ends double click on the executable icon and install the software utilizing all of the default settings.

Windows XP users should download and install the software using all of the default settings, performing a typical install. (NOTE: You must be logged into your PC as an Administrator to install NFIRS)

Windows Vista users should download and install the software using all of the default settings, performing a typical install, then follow the steps below to change the settings on the cache and logs folders. (NOTE: You must be logged into your PC as an Administrator to install NFIRS)

Windows 7 & 8 users should download and install the software using all of the default settings, (NOTE: You must be logged into your PC as an Administrator to install NFIRS) performing a typical install then follow these steps as the NFIRS software will not run in the standard configuration of Windows 7 or Windows 8. To change these settings:

Windows 7
Click on your Start Button
Click on computer control panel
Click on system & security
Click on system
Click advanced systems settings
Click system performance OR performance settings
Click "adjust for best performance"
Click apply
Close the control panel

Windows 8
Click on your Start Button
Click on all apps
Click on control panel
Click on system & security
Click on system
Click advanced systems settings
Click system performance OR performance settings
Click "adjust for best performance"
Click apply
Close the control panel

NOTE: This will set your computer to run at best performance for ALL programs being used. If you are a "power user" and run multiple programs at the same time on a laptop while on battery power you will most likely see a drop in battery time.

When installing on Windows 7, Windows 8 and Windows Vista machines the current version of NFIRS also installs two folders as read only instead of full control, which prohibits the software from running. The following instructions will walk you through the steps to change these settings.

Changing the NFIRS Software Read Only Permissions to Full Control on Windows Vista, 7 & 8 Computers
Make all changes to the computer outlined in the email first, then:
Click on Start
Click on Computer (Win 7 & Windows Vista) **OR** Libraries (Win 8)
Double Click on your C Drive (C:)
Double Click on Program Files(x86) for Windows 7 & 8 **OR** Program Files For Windows Vista.
Double Click on NFIRSv594
Right click on the CACHE folder and select the properties option.
Click on the tab labeled Security.
Find the line that says "Users (Your Computer Name\Users)" under the "Group or user names" area and click on it to highlight it.
Click on edit button.
On this "permissions screen" find the line that says "Users (Your Computer Name\Users)" under the "Group or user names" area and click on it to highlight it. (Please note though the step is similar to the one before, it is a different screen)
On the permissions area make sure Full Control is checked under the allow column.
Click on apply and make sure the information is saved.
Click ok and exit the pop up screens. This takes you back to the main list of folders in the NFIRSv594 directory.
Right click on the LOGS folder and select the properties option.
Click on the tab labeled Security.
Find the line that says "Users (Your Computer Name\Users)" under the "Group or user names" area and click on it to highlight it.
Click on edit button.
On this "permissions screen" find the line that says "Users (Your Computer Name\Users)" under the "Group or user names" area and click on it to highlight it. (Please note though the step is similar to the one before, it is a different screen)
On the permissions area make sure Full Control is checked under the allow column.

Click on apply and make sure the information is saved.
Click ok and exit the pop up screens. This takes you back to the main list of folders in the NFIRSv594 directory.
Close all of the open windows.
Start the NFIRS Software.

Windows Vista and 7 users should click on the Start Button and then All Programs and then NFIRSv594. Click on the DET Icon and start the software.

Windows 8 users should go to the Windows 8 "Start" screen and type NFIRS. This will retrieve the NFIRS Application so you can click on the DET Icon and start the software. You can also "Pin" the DET Icon to the Start Screen.

You should see a quick black flash and then the log in screen should appear. If the log in screen does not appear then one of the permissions you changed did not take effect. Go through the steps again ensuring that all of the proper permissions have been saved.